Chris Fletcher

EDC 102

Professor Noonan

Rugby: A Newly Discovered Enjoyment

I joined the University of Rhode Island Rugby team last fall and it was one of the best choices I made. I was a freshman on first night when two guys I played football with in high school told me to come over and check out the rugby table. I missed the team aspect that a sport like football provided and wanted a structured avenue for not only staying in shape but meeting new people. I was worried that the time for me partaking in team sports had ended when I graduated high school. One of the kids I knew from high school took me the next day to get cleats and a mouth piece. I remember thinking to myself, “is this really it for equipment?” Coming from football I was used to always having to suit in pads so it was a bit intimidating.

The first practice was very confusing. I had no real concept of the rules or even the correct way to handle the ball and pass. I took a comfort into knowing that there were many other freshmen in my position as well. In the first tackling drill we had at practice I was a bit hesitant to tackle another play because of the lack of padding. I made the worst mistake one can do when trying to tackle I stopped my feet at contact and took the full brunt of the hit from an upperclassmen on the team. I felt on my back and it was my wakeup call that, hey this serious and you can’t hold back. As the weeks went by I developed my skills in the game more and gained a sense of confidence when I finally understood my place on the field. My position is a flanker or the 6 man, think of it like a defensive end in football. This was helpful to me because it was my position back when I played football. There are two flankers and we are bound onto the sides of the scrum waiting to run out and go for the ball. Rugby is a very fast and exciting sport that is well suited to me and I enjoy taking part in.